

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Northern District of California

San Francisco Division

In the Matter of the Application of

No. C 13-80125 CRB (LB)

O2CNI CO., LTD.,

**ORDER DENYING O2CNI'S
APPLICATION FOR DISCOVERY**

For an Order to Conduct Discovery for Use in
a Foreign Legal Proceeding pursuant to 28
U.S.C. § 1782.

[Re: ECF Nos. 1]

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner O2CNI Co., Ltd. filed an *ex parte* application under 28 U.S.C. § 1782 for an order to conduct discovery for use in a foreign legal proceeding (the “Application”). *See* ECF No. 1. It seeks discovery from Symantec Corporation and its employee Steven James Owyang (collectively, “Respondents”) for use in criminal proceedings in Korea and in anticipated civil litigation in Japan. *See id.* On June 18, 2013, the district court referred the application (and all other discovery) to the undersigned for resolution. Order of Reference, ECF No. 8; Notice of Referral, ECF No. 11. Respondents learned of O2CNI’s Application (thus making it no longer *ex parte*) and filed an opposition. Opposition, ECF No. 20. The court heard oral argument from the parties on August 15, 2013, and on this record exercises its discretion to deny O2CNI’s Application without prejudice.

STATEMENT

I. THE PARTIES AND THEIR PRIOR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

O2CNI (formerly known as PC Doctor) is a corporation duly organized and existing under the

1 laws of the Republic of Korea with its headquarters in Seoul, Korea. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶
 2 2. It is a leading global developer and provider of remote technical support services, which involve
 3 troubleshooting technical problems with a customer's computer remotely without requiring an actual
 4 visit by a technician. *Id.* ¶ 5. Through its Application, O2CNI seeks documents and testimony from
 5 Symantec Corporation and Mr. Owyang for use in criminal proceedings in Korea and in anticipated
 6 civil litigation in Japan, both of which are described in more detail below. *See generally*
 7 Application, ECF No. 1. Symantec Corporation is a corporation organized under the laws of
 8 Delaware that conducts business and maintains its principal executive office in Mountain View,
 9 California. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 3. Mr. Owyang is an individual who works for Symantec
 10 Corporation in Mountain View, California and resides in San Jose, California. *Id.* ¶ 4.

11 In 2004, in partnership with Korean internet service provider Hanaro Telecom, Inc., O2CNI
 12 launched and operated the world's first profitable remote technical support service. *Id.* ¶ 7.
 13 According to O2CNI, it used a unique communications network that substantially lowered
 14 communication fees and also employed a detailed customer relation management knowledge base
 15 that O2CNI and its affiliate Rsupport Co., Ltd. had systematically compiled over the course of the
 16 previous three years. *Id.* It states that its unique communications network and knowledge base are
 17 the keys to the profitability, quality and sustainability of its business, and so it has kept details of
 18 these vital trade secrets strictly confidential. *Id.* ¶ 8.

19 In 2005, O2CNI was approached by Symantec Corporation, a leading international security
 20 service provider that sells internet security and anti-virus products under the "Norton" brand name
 21 through its regional subsidiaries, to provide technical support services to its customers. *Id.* ¶ 9;
 22 Chapman Declaration, ECF No. 21 ¶ 2 (describing Symantec's business). O2CNI and several of
 23 Symantec's subsidiaries—including its Korean subsidiary ("Symantec Korea"), its Irish subsidiary
 24 ("Symantec Limited"), its Japanese subsidiary ("Symantec Japan"), and its Asia Pacific subsidiary
 25 ("Symantec Asia Pacific")—whereby O2CNI provided remote technical support services to certain
 26 Norton users located in Korea and Japan. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶¶ 9-12; Chapman
 27 Declaration, ECF No. 21 ¶¶ 4-6, Exhs. A, B, C. O2CNI provided its services via its call center in
 28 Korea where it employed both Korean and Japanese employees to service customers in both

1 countries. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 11. O2CNI states that, due to its proprietary
2 communications network, calls from Japanese customers were billed at local Korean rates, thereby
3 keeping rates low. *Id.* ¶ 11. O2CNI also states that it created a modified knowledge base that was
4 tailored to the Japanese customers. *Id.* Thus, the communications network and knowledge base,
5 O2CNI claims, continued to be O2CNI's essential trade secrets. *Id.*

6 O2CNI's Application is related to the move of certain of its employees to Symantec Korea.
7 Between October 2011 and December 2011, five of its key employees—namely, Young-Oh Yeom,
8 Yong Sok Song and Dae Yeol Kim (described by O2CNI as core employees with full knowledge of
9 O2CNI's trade secrets) and Yong Ho Ro and Sung Kyung Kim (who oversaw the Japanese
10 operation) (collectively, the "Former Employees")—resigned for various reasons. *Id.* ¶ 14.
11 Immediately after leaving O2CNI, however, each of the Former Employees was hired by Symantec
12 Korea. *Id.* ¶ 15. Despite Symantec Korea's assurances that the Former Employees' work is
13 unrelated to their previous duties at O2CNI, O2CNI states that it has learned that the Former
14 Employees actually manage a call center in Korea that provides remote technical support services in
15 direct competition with O2CNI. *Id.* ¶¶ 14-16. O2CNI also states that it also learned that, in the one
16 and a half years prior to their departure, Young-Oh Yeom, Sung Kyung Kim, and Yong Ho Ro
17 engaged in "unusually frequent" email exchanges with Mr. Owyang and his superior Kevin Paul
18 Chapman. *Id.* ¶ 17. Many of these communications apparently were made without copying O2CNI
19 executives, in violation of O2CNI's internal reporting procedures. *Id.* Although several of the
20 Former Employees attempted to destroy their emails and computer files prior to resigning, O2CNI
21 has recovered a number of emails suggesting that some or all of the Former Employees disclosed
22 confidential O2CNI trade secrets to Mr. Owyang, Mr. Chapman, and other Symantec personnel
23 while still working for O2CNI. *Id.* ¶ 18.

24 On July 27, 2012—less than one year after the Former Employees left O2CNI for Symantec
25 Korea—O2CNI learned that its contract with Symantec Japan would not be renewed upon its
26 expiration on August 31, 2012. *Id.* ¶¶ 19-20. After the contract expired, Symantec immediately
27 began providing the very same remote technical support services to certain Japanese customers that
28 O2CNI had provided, and Symantec did so from its own call center in Korea, which now was being

1 managed by Young-Oh Yeom and other Former Employees. *Id.* ¶ 20. O2CNI then was informed
 2 that effective December 31, 2012, all other contracts related to Japan also would be terminated. *Id.* ¶
 3 21. Since then, O2CNI has completely lost its market share in Japan. *Id.* ¶ 22.

4 **II. THE KOREAN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

5 In December 2011, O2CNI submitted a request for investigation to the Korean National
 6 Intelligence Service (“NIS”) alleging that the five Former Employees illegally disclosed O2CNI’s
 7 trade secrets to Symantec. *Id.* ¶ 24, Exh. A; Hwang Declaration, ECF No. 20-3 ¶ 2. The NIS
 8 apparently conducted a preliminary review of the file and turned the matter over to the Gyeonggi
 9 Provincial Police Agency, which initiated a criminal investigation in February/March 2012 (the
 10 “Korean Criminal Proceedings”). Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 25; Hwang Declaration, ECF No.
 11 20-3 ¶ 2. As part of the investigation, Korean authorities have requested O2CNI’s assistance in
 12 collecting evidence in aid of the investigation. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 26. O2CNI states that
 13 it has cooperated fully with these requests and has provided witness testimony and documents to
 14 them. *Id.* ¶ 26. On March 15, 2012, Korean authorities executed search and seizure warrants on
 15 Symantec Korea and each of the Former Employees located in Korea. *Id.* ¶ 27; Hwang Declaration,
 16 ECF No. 20-3 ¶ 3. According to one of Symantec’s attorneys, the authorities seized the personal
 17 computers, storage media, and both work and personal email accounts of the Former Employees at
 18 their offices and residences, and also seized extensive computer media and documents from
 19 Symantec’s Korea office. Hwang Declaration, ECF No. 20-3 ¶ 3. The authorities also have
 20 questioned each of the Former Employees numerous times. *Id.*

21 The Korean police, however, apparently have informed O2CNI that despite their efforts to do
 22 so—the Korean police have sent formal “Requests to Appear” to Mr. Owyang, Mr. Chapman, and
 23 the CEOs of Symantec Corporation, Symantec Japan, and Symantec Asia Pacific—they have been
 24 unable to (a) collect any documents from Symantec Corporation that are stored or held outside
 25 Korea, or (b) interview or collect documents from Mr. Owyang or Mr. Chapman because they are
 26 outside Korea. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 28; Park Reply Declaration, ECF No. 31 ¶ 3.
 27 Indeed, although the Korean police requested the voluntary interviews of non-Korean Symantec
 28 employees, those individuals have declined to travel to Korea to appear. Hwang Declaration, ECF

No. 20-3 ¶ 8. As far as Symantec's attorney knows, the Korean authorities have not submitted, pursuant to the applicable Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters ("MLAT"), a request to the United States for the collection of evidence for use the Korean Criminal Proceedings. *Id.* ¶ 9.

In October and November 2012, in support of the Korean Criminal Proceedings, O2CNI submitted a complaint, request for punishment, and concurring opinion, alleging and providing further evidence that the Former Employees, Mr. Owyang, Mr. Chapman, and three Symantec entities (Symantec Corporation, Symantec Korea, and Symantec Asia Pacific PTE Limited ("Symantec Asia Pacific")) violated the Korean Unfair Competition Prevention and Trade Secret Protection Act and wrongfully acquired, used, and disclosed O2CNI's trade secrets. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 29, Exhs. B, C, D; Son Declaration, ECF No. 4 ¶ 3. The Korean police then apparently submitted O2CNI's complaint, the evidence and testimony it had collected, and a recommendation of indictment to the Korean Public Prosecutor's Office. Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 30. O2CNI says that the Korean Public Prosecutor's Office is continuing to collect documents and evidence pursuant to its investigative powers in preparation for filing a formal indictment against the Former Employees, Mr. Owyang, Mr. Chapman, and the Symantec entities. *Id.* ¶ 31; Son Declaration, ECF No. 4 ¶ 4. Symantec, however, says that the Korean Public Prosecutor's Office is nearing the conclusion of its investigation, does not intend to obtain additional evidence, and will render a decision on whether to seek an indictment in the near future. Hwang Declaration, ECF No. 20-3 ¶ 11.

III. THE JAPANESE CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

According to O2CNI, the above-described events also support causes of action for violation of Japan's Unfair Competition Prevention Act and breach of the agreement between O2CNI and Symantec Japan. Tosaki Declaration, ECF No. 3 ¶ 3. Based on the facts of which it is aware, O2CNI states that it anticipates that it will commence a lawsuit against Symantec Korea, Symantec Japan, and/or Symantec Corporation (but not Mr. Owyang) before the commercial courts in Japan (the "Japanese Civil Proceedings"). Shin Declaration, ECF No. 5 ¶ 33 (listing only entities as defendants); *see also* Reply, ECF No. 26 at 10. O2CNI already has filed in Tokyo District Court a

1 motion for a preliminary injunction restraining Symantec Corporation, Symantec Japan, Symantec
 2 Korea, and Symantec Asia Pacific from infringing O2CNI's trade secrets. Tosaki Reply
 3 Declaration, ECF No. 30 ¶ 8. The purpose of the motion for a preliminary injunction is to prevent
 4 the further alleged misappropriation and use of O2CNI's trade secrets pending the filing and
 5 litigation of O2CNI's lawsuit against Symantec Corporation, Symantec Japan, Symantec Korea, and
 6 Symantec Asia Pacific. *Id.* ¶ 8.

7 **IV. THE DOCUMENT REQUESTS**

8 The Application has 17 document requests to Symantec Corporation that are summarized in the
 9 next chart. *See* Application, ECF No. 1, Ex. A at 11-17.

Request #	Description
1	Policies and procedures regarding document retention or destruction policies and procedures (informal or formal) from January 1, 2007 to the present.
2	Corporate structure and personnel (including organizational charts) from January 1, 2007 for 21 divisions (such as Telesales, Norton Startup Services, and Virus and Software Solution).
3	Personnel information and job descriptions for Mr. Owyang and Mr. Chapman.
4	Comprehensive documents about the hiring of the Former Employees and their employment status.
5	"All documents and things written, created, produced, sent, or delivered by each of the Former O2CNI employees from January 2009 to the present."
6	All documents regarding Project Red
7	All documents that include the term "Project Red" including those that also include 11 additional terms.
8	All documents and things uploaded to network folders or document repositories concerning Project Red.
9	"All documents and things that have ever been received, sent, created, revised, or kept by" 27 specific employees concerning Project Red.
10	All documents or things concerning ROI project.
11	All documents and things concerning "IR People" from January 1, 2011 to the present, including "documents Symantec has ever sent or received from IR People, all State of Work documents exchanged with IR People, documents concerning Symantec's retention of IR people, decision to retain IR People, and the amount of Symantec's consulting fee payments to IR people, and invoices Symantec received from IR People.

12	Documents and things to show the technical specifications and architectures of the systems used to provide 18 identified services and all products and services out of Symantec's Korea call center from January 1, 2009 to the present.
13	Documents showing the contents of the technical support materials used by call center employees to provide the same services as in 12 from January 1, 2009 to the present.
14	Regarding the same services, documents and things relating to planning, researching, developing, improving, commercializing, and launching the services from January 1, 1009 to the present.
15	All documents and things relating to the CRM of Salesforce.com
16	Documents to show the revenue, profits, and losses from January 1, 2009 to the present for the same services.
17	All document and things concerning the Korean Criminal Investigation, including documents about Symantec's and Mr. Owyang's decision to decline to respond to investigative demands by the Korean authorities and any investigation commissioned by Symantec.

O2CNI describes the relevance of the requests as follows. *See* Memo, ECF No. 2 at 23-24.

Request #	O2NCI's Description of Relevance and Utility
1, 17	Symantec's document retention and Symantec's and Mr. Owyang's alleged non-responsiveness to the Korean authorities' investigative demands. Relevant to determining whether Symantec and Mr. Owyang have concealed their wrongdoing by purging relevant documents or transferring information to servers outside of Korea.
2	Identification of Symantec employees with knowledge of wrongful disclosures and appropriation of O2NCI's trade secrets in order to compete unfairly.
3	Whereabouts of Mr. Owyang (in case he tries to evade service) and Mr. Chapman (to obtain discovery from him individually).
4	Relevant to wrongful solicitation and retention of the Former Employees by Symantec in order to compete unfairly wit O2NCI.
5-11	Communications with Former Employees and the transmission of O2CNI's confidential information and trade secrets to Symantec relating to the ROI Project, Project Red, and IR people, which are words that O2NCI discovered in other communications regarding disclosure of its confidential information and trade secrets.
12-16	Relevant to Symantec's use of O2CNI's trade secrets and confidential information.

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3 ANALYSIS

4 I. LEGAL STANDARD

5 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) provides, in pertinent part:

6 The district court of the district in which a person resides or is found may order him
7 to give his testimony or statement or to produce a document or other thing for use in a
8 proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal, including criminal investigations
9 conducted before formal accusation. The order may be made pursuant to a letter
10 rogatory issued, or request made, by a foreign or international tribunal or upon the
11 application of any interested person and may direct that the testimony or statement be
12 given, or the document or other thing be produced, before a person appointed by the
13 court.

14 Among others who “possess[] a reasonable interest in obtaining [judicial] assistance,” a complainant
15 who “triggers” an investigation by a state investigative body or a litigant in a foreign action qualifies
16 as an “interested person” under § 1782. *See Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.*, 542 U.S.
17 241, 256 (2004). To apply for discovery pursuant to § 1782, a formal proceeding in the foreign
18 jurisdiction need not be currently pending, or even imminent. *Id.* at 258-59. Instead, all that is
19 necessary is that a “dispositive ruling” by the foreign adjudicative body is “within reasonable
20 contemplation.” *Id.* at 259 (holding that discovery was proper under § 1782 even though the
21 applicant’s complaint against the opposing party was only in the investigative stage). An *ex parte*
22 application is an acceptable method for seeking discovery pursuant to § 1782. *See In re Letters
23 Rogatory from Tokyo Dist., Tokyo, Japan*, 539 F.2d 1216, 1219 (9th Cir. 1976) (holding that the
24 subpoenaed parties may raise objections and exercise their due process rights by bringing motions to
25 quash the subpoenas).

26 A district court has wide discretion to grant or deny discovery under § 1782. *Intel*, 542 U.S. at
27 260-61, 264-65. In exercising its discretion, a district court should consider the following factors:
28 (1) whether the “person from whom discovery is sought is a participant in the foreign proceeding”;
(2) “the nature of the foreign tribunal, the character of the proceedings underway abroad, and the
receptivity of the foreign government or the court or agency abroad to U.S. federal court judicial
assistance”; (3) whether the request “conceals an attempt to circumvent foreign proof-gathering

1 restrictions or other policies of a foreign country or the United States”; and (4) whether the request
2 is “unduly intrusive or burdensome.” *See id.* at 264-65.

3 A district court’s discretion is to be exercised in view of the twin aims of § 1782: providing
4 efficient assistance to participants in international litigation, and encouraging foreign countries by
5 example to provide similar assistance to our courts. *See Schmitz v. Bernstein Liebhard & Lifshitz,*
6 *LLP*, 376 F.3d 79, 84 (2004). There is no requirement that the party seeking discovery establish that
7 the information sought would be discoverable under the governing law in the foreign proceeding or
8 that United States law would allow discovery in an analogous domestic proceeding. *See Intel*, 542
9 U.S. at 247, 261-63.

10 **II. APPLICATION**

11 When considering an application for discovery pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782, the court considers
12 first whether it has the authority to grant the request and then whether it should exercise its
13 discretion to do so. *Lazaridis v. Int’l Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, Inc.*, 760 F. Supp.
14 2d 109, 112 (D.D.C. 2011) (citations omitted).

15 **A. The Statutory Requirements Are Met**

16 Upon review of O2CNI’s Application, the court finds that O2CNI made a sufficient showing,
17 with respect to both the Korean Criminal Proceedings and the Japanese Civil Proceedings, that the
18 statutory requirements for the court to issue an order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 are met, *see*
19 Memo, ECF No. 2 at 15-19, and Respondents concede as much, Opposition, ECF No. 20 at 10
20 (“Symantec does not contest that O2CNI’s application satisfies the statutory requirements under 28
21 U.S.C. § 1782”). Symantec Corporation and Mr. Owyang both are found in this District, the
22 discovery sought is “for use” in the Korean Criminal Proceedings and the Japanese Civil
23 Proceedings, and O2CNI is an “interested person” in those proceedings. Accordingly, the court
24 moves on to discuss whether the *Intel* factors support exercise of the court’s discretion to issue an
25 order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782.

26 **B. The Court Exercises Its Discretion and Denies the Application**

27 “[A] district court is not required to grant a § 1782(a) discovery application simply because it has
28 the authority to do so.” *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264; *see id.* at 247 (“We caution, however, that § 1782(a)

1 authorizes, but does not require, a federal district court to provide judicial assistance to foreign or
 2 international tribunals or to ‘interested person[s]’ in proceedings abroad.”). Instead, the court must
 3 look to several factors that have been outlined by the Supreme Court before exercising its discretion
 4 to grant or deny the application. The court examines these factors in turn below.

5 ***1. Whether Symantec Corporation and Mr. Owyang Are Participants in the Foreign***
 6 ***Proceedings***

7 The first *Intel* factor requires the court to look to whether the “person from whom discovery is
 8 sought is a participant in the foreign proceeding.” *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264. The Supreme Court
 9 explained that “when the person from whom discovery is sought is a participant in the foreign
 10 proceeding . . . , the need for § 1782(a) aid generally is not as apparent as it ordinarily is when
 11 evidence is sought from a nonparticipant in the matter arising abroad” because “[a] foreign tribunal
 12 has jurisdiction over those appearing before it, and can itself order them to produce evidence.” *Id.*
 13 (citations omitted). “In contrast,” the Court continued, “nonparticipants in the foreign proceeding
 14 may be outside the foreign tribunal’s jurisdictional reach; hence, their evidence, available in the
 15 United States, may be unobtainable absent § 1782(a) aid.” *Id.* (citation omitted).

16 Here, O2CNI argues that Symantec Corporation and Mr. Owyang are not participating in the
 17 Korean Criminal Proceedings or the Japanese Civil Proceedings. Memo, ECF No. 2 at 20.

18 ***a. The Korean Criminal Proceedings***

19 As to the Korean Criminal Proceedings, O2CNI points to Symantec Corporation’s and Mr.
 20 Owyang’s refusals to respond to the Korean authorities’ formal “Requests to Appear.” *Id.* It also
 21 challenges Respondents’ assertion that “Symantec” and Mr. Owyang are participants in the Korean
 22 Criminal Proceedings by noting that only Symantec Korea—as opposed to Symantec
 23 Corporation—has provided documents or testimony to the Korean authorities and that Mr. Owyang
 24 has declined to travel to Korea to appear. Reply, ECF No. 26 at 9-10.

25 Symantec and Mr. Owyang apparently are suspects in the Korean criminal investigation. If they
 26 are charged, they become participants. The issue is how this tension in the context of this criminal
 27 case bears on the court’s discretionary decision to order discovery. The court’s view is that under
 28 the particular facts of this case, the factor weighs in favor of letting the evidence in that case develop

1 through the criminal authorities investigating it.

2 The court appreciates that section 1782(a) covers criminal investigations conducted before
3 formal accusation, and O2CNI as a victim and complainant is an interested party to the Korean
4 criminal investigation. *See Intel*, 542 U.S. at 256. But the court is not required to grant discovery
5 just because the statute allows it. *See id.* at 264; *Lazaridis*, 760 F. Supp. 2d at 112. While a
6 corporation may provide assistance to criminal authorities investigating a case, ordinarily, that
7 entails a corporation's cooperation with the investigating authorities by providing its own
8 information and records. And this is more than a subpoena directed at a third party with relevant
9 information: O2CNI wants to act as investigator for the Korean authorities against the entities that it
10 wants the Korean authorities to charge. If Korean authorities want more information from the
11 respondents, they can use the MLAT process, which can subject Mr. Symantec and Mr. Owyang to
12 production of evidence and thus renders them closer to "participants" within the meaning of *Intel*.
13 *Cf. Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264; *see Lazaridis*, 760 F. Supp. 2d at 115 (making a similar point).

14 ***b. The Japanese Civil Proceedings***

15 As for the Japanese Civil Proceedings, O2CNI says that it does not anticipate (and has never
16 suggested that it anticipates) suing Mr. Owyang. *Id.* at 10. This is borne out by O2CNI's failure to
17 include him as a party to its motion for a preliminary injunction. And although O2CNI has named
18 Symantec Corporation as a party to its motion for a preliminary injunction, it argues that Symantec
19 Corporation "has not confirmed its submissions or otherwise that it will participate" in the
20 proceedings and that Symantec Corporation's failure to participate in the Korean Criminal
21 Proceedings suggests that it will likewise fail to participate in the Japanese ones, too. *Id.* at 10-11.

22 Symantec Corporation responds that the Japanese litigation is hypothetical and a tack-on to what
23 really is a request in furtherance of the Korean criminal investigation. Opposition, ECF No. 20 at
24 11-12. Also, Symantec Corporation is named, and Japanese courts can order document production
25 and witness testimony for parties located abroad. *Id.* at 12; Mori Decl., ECF No. 20-4, ¶¶ 6-8.
26 Symantec Corporation also says that the venue provisions under the O2CNI-Symantec contracts are
27 in London, and England's procedural rules require a party located abroad to disclose relevant
28 evidence and make witnesses available. Opposition, ECF No. 20 at 12; Hitchins Decl., ECF No. 20-

1 5, ¶¶ 6-7, 10-17.

2 The court's view is that the civil litigation is hypothetical or at best in the very early stages, the
3 forums (Japan or the London contract venue) provide a means for obtaining evidence, and if the
4 litigation became less hypothetical and did not provide a means to access information, O2CNI could
5 renew its request. On this record and at this stage, the request is at best premature.

6 ***2. The Nature of the Foreign Tribunals, the Character of the Proceedings, and the***
7 ***Receptivity of the Foreign Governments or the Court or Agency Abroad to U.S. federal***
8 ***court Judicial Assistance***

9 The second *Intel* factor requires the court to "take into account the nature of the foreign tribunal,
10 the character of the proceedings underway abroad, and the receptivity of the foreign government or
11 the court or agency abroad to U.S. federal-court judicial assistance." *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264. To
12 these points, O2CNI argues that because both Korea and Japan have entered into MLATs with the
13 United States, it may be inferred that courts in Korea and Japan are receptive to receiving discovery
14 from the United States. Application, ECF No. 2 at 21 (citing *In re Application of Imanagement*
15 *Servs. Ltd.*, No. Civ. A 05-2311 (JAG), 2006 WL 547949, at *4 (D.N.J. Mar. 3, 2006) (citing *In re*
16 *Servicio Pan Americano de Proteccion*, 354 F. Supp. 2d 269, 274 (S.D.N.Y. 2004))). And it notes
17 that Korean and Japanese authorities have made use of the MLATs to ask United States authorities
18 for help gathering evidence. *Id.* at 22 (citing *In re Letters Rogatory from Tokyo Dist. Prosecutor's*
19 *Office, Tokyo, Japan*, 16 F.3d 1016 (9th Cir. 1994); *In re Request for Judicial Assistance from Seoul*
20 *Dist. Criminal Court, Seoul, Korea*, 555 F.2d 720 (9th Cir. 1977); *In re Letters Rogatory from*
21 *Tokyo Dist., Tokyo, Japan*, 539 F.2d 1216, 1217 (9th Cir. 1976)). Lastly, it highlights the lack of
22 evidence suggesting that the Japanese authorities, at least, would be *unreceptive* to receiving
23 discovery from the United States. *Id.*

24 Respondents do not challenge these points. Instead, they argue that O2CNI has offered no
25 persuasive evidence that either the Korean authorities or the Japanese court want additional
26 discovery (or even know about the volume of discovery sought by O2CNI here). Opposition, ECF
27 No. 20 at 12-14. They also point out that neither the Korean authorities nor the Japanese court have
28 attempted to get evidence from the United States, and they surely are aware of the MLAT process.

1 *Id.* at 13. Lastly, Respondents suggest that comity concerns should caution the court from granting
2 O2CNI's Application. *Id.* at 14.

3 The court's view is that on this record, this factor does not tip one way or the other, especially in
4 light of the Supreme Court's discussion of this issue in *Intel*. There, the Court "question[ed]
5 whether foreign governments would be offended by a domestic prescription permitting, but not
6 requiring, judicial assistance." *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 243-44. As the Court explained:

7 A foreign nation may limit discovery within its domain for reasons peculiar to its own
8 legal practices, culture, or traditions; such reasons do not necessarily signal objection
9 to aid from United States federal courts. A foreign tribunal's reluctance to order
production of materials present in the United States similarly may signal no
resistance to the receipt of evidence gathered pursuant to § 1782(a).

10 *Id.* at 244.

11 **3. The Evasion of Foreign Proof Gathering Restrictions**

12 The third *Intel* factor requires the court to "consider whether the § 1782(a) request conceals an
13 attempt to circumvent foreign proof-gathering restrictions or other policies of a foreign country or
14 the United States." *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264. In this regard, O2CNI states that it "is not aware of any
15 rule of legal maxim in Korea or Japan that would preclude or restrict [it] from seeking or obtaining
16 discovery in the United States under Section 1782." Memo, ECF No. 2 at 22 (citing Tosaki
17 Declaration, ECF No. 3 ¶ 6; Son Declaration, ECF No. 4 ¶ 6); *see also* Reply, ECF No. 26 at 13-14.
18 On the other hand, O2CNI states that there are no mechanisms under Korean law that would permit
19 Korean authorities to compel Symantec Corporation or Mr. Owyang to give testimony or produce
20 documents in the United States in aid of the criminal investigation currently underway in Korea
21 without the assistance of the United States government or judiciary. *Id.* at 12, 22 (citing Son
22 Declaration, ECF No. 4 ¶ 5). It also states that while a Japanese court may order a party to produce
23 documents or provide testimony in connection with a civil litigation, the Japanese court does not
24 have jurisdiction to order the production of documents by a third party located in the United States,
25 nor would it have jurisdiction to compel a third party outside of Japan to provide testimony. *Id.* at
26 13, 23 (citing Tosaki Declaration, ECF No. 3 ¶¶ 4-5).

27 As discussed above in the section titled **Participants**, while complainants provide information all
28 the time to criminal authorities to assist in the investigation, it is an extra and perhaps unusual effort

1 to use tools also available to those authorities through the MLAT process. And who knows what
2 safeguards—such as act of production immunity—might apply in a criminal investigation when an
3 agency uses its ordinary investigative tools to acquire information. The MLAT process provides
4 safeguards appropriate to a criminal case when the evidence is sought from the suspects themselves.
5 Again, the court understands that section 1782(a) allows the process for criminal investigations, and
6 this is not a categorical rule against it. But the court does not see how granting the request in this
7 case would be an exercise of discretion that furthers the twin aims of the statute of (1) efficient
8 means of assistance to participants in international litigation and (2) encouraging reciprocity to our
9 courts. *See Schmitz*, 376 F.3d at 84. The MLAT process accomplishes both aims in the fact-specific
10 context of this case.

11 As to the potential Japanese civil litigation, as the court said above, the request is premature. If
12 the litigation becomes actual and the forum does not provide a means of obtaining evidence, O2CNI
13 may renew its request.

14 ***4. O2CNI's Requests Are Unduly Burdensome***

15 Finally, under the fourth *Intel* factor, “unduly intrusive or burdensome requests may be rejected
16 or trimmed.” *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264. O2CNI’s requests are unduly burdensome.

17 As the chart shows, the document requests are very broad and involve proprietary information
18 that may or may not be relevant to restitution in a criminal proceeding but would be protected in a
19 civil case. Symantec Corporation’s investigations could be privileged and work product. Many of
20 the requests call for “all documents and things” for long time periods for many Symantec services.
21 The e-discovery that is contemplated is voluminous on its face and would be expensive.

22 In a civil case, the court could fashion limits to address these issues. But as described
23 previously, any civil litigation is preliminary, the contemplated forum appears to provide an
24 opportunity for discovery, and if it does not, O2CNI may renew its request. Nothing suggests early
25 discovery through the section 1782(a) mechanism is appropriate or supports the twin aims of the
26 statute.

27 Instead, the relevance now is in aid of the criminal investigation. The court already discussed its
28 view that it should not allow the discovery on this record. In addition, the burdens would not justify

1 the discovery that O2CNI requests.

2 **CONCLUSION**

3 In the exercise of its discretion, the court denies O2CNI's request and quashes the subpoenas.
4 Granting discovery in aid of the Korean Criminal Proceedings is not appropriate on this record. On
5 this record, discovery in relation to the Japanese Civil Proceedings is premature, apparently
6 available through any foreign forum, and burdensome. The court denies the request for civil
7 discovery without prejudice.

8 This disposes of ECF No. 1.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10 Dated: August 15, 2013



11 LAUREL BEELER
12 United States Magistrate Judge
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